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June 17, 2003

To: **CERTIFIED INDUSTRY SUPERVISORS AND CERTIFIED LABS TESTING
FOR BETA LACTAM DRUGS, AND MILK HANDLERS**

Subject: **DISPOSAL OF RAW MILK ADULTERATED WITH BETA LACTAM
ANTIBIOTICS BY DIVERSION FOR USE AS ANIMAL FEED**

The California Department of Food and Agriculture Milk and Dairy Foods Control (MDFC) Branch has adopted the following protocol for disposing of raw milk that has been adulterated with beta lactam antibiotics by using it as animal feed.

Protocol: All bulk raw milk tanker loads confirmed positive for beta lactam and intended for diversion for calf feed, shall be cleared for such use by a negative test obtained from a 1:100 dilution of the tanker milk sample as an additional test step by the M-a-85 screening test used for the Screening Test Positive (Load Confirmation) procedure. The sample shall be diluted with milk confirmed negative for beta lactams.

Loads testing negative on a 1:100 dilution may be diverted for animal feed provided the shipping invoice includes: the negative test result, dilution, test used and recorded test reading, certified laboratory identification, signature of certified analyst and load identification verification plus a clear statement "MEDICATED ANIMAL FEED - WITHDRAW 45 DAYS BEFORE SLAUGHTER". This information shall be provided to the appropriate MDFC Regional Office without unnecessary delay.

Loads testing positive with 1:100 dilution must be disposed of in an approved manner other than for animal feed.

Sincerely,

William J. Bordessa, Chief
Milk & Dairy Foods Control Branch
Animal Health and Food Safety Service

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